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ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 /086 W
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R 011843Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6771

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E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT FOLLOW UP TO HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP

REF: A BUENOS AIRES 5656, B STATE 189696

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL B:
A. DATES OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS:
-- PEREZ ESQUVEL MISTREATED ABOUT JUNE 1, 1978
-- PERMANENT ASSEMBLY MISTREATED IN 3RD QUARTER OF 1977
-- FEMALE PSYCHOLOGIST MISTREATED IN EARLY JUNE 1978
-- MRS. EGEA MISTREATED IN EARLY JULY 1978

B. NEW DRUG REPORTED INTRODUCED:
IN THE PAST YEAR THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS REGARDING THE USE OF CURARE FROM AN ARGENTINE SECURITY CONTACT, HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF KETALAR IS FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE WHO IS A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND WHO RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM A LONGTIME FRIEND--A MILITARY PHYSICIAN. HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST ON OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENT. EMBASSY
[redacted]

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WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE DRUG'S USE TO THE DEPARTMENT IF AND WHEN RECEIVED.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release (X) Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): B1
Declassify: (X) In Part () In Full
(X) Classify as C () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5/9/01 Declassify on 5/9/11 Reason 25X6

C. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PROBLEMS:
IN EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT, OVERT HARASSMENT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IS AN OPERATIONAL DECISION MADE AT LOCAL POLICE AND DISTRICT SCHOOL LEVELS. CLEARLY, GOA AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION AND PRONOUNCEMENTS AGAINST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO EXPEL WITNESS STUDENTS AND ARREST AND HARASS INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUPS OF WITNESSES. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES' LOCAL LEADER, THE HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL SHCOOL EXPULSION BUT NO ARREST DURING JULY.

D. [redacted] B1
EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH [redacted] FORMER PEN PRISONERS B1
TEN TO SUPPORT [redacted] FINDING THAT MOST PEN PRISONERS WERE TORTURED DURING THEIR INTERROGATION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CURRENT OPERATIONAL SECURITY PRACTICES ENTAIL TORTURING OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS. INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TOTHE EMBASSY INDICATES NO CHANGE IN THIS PROCEDURE, ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL TREND IN THE NUMBER OF DETENTIONS SEEMS TO BE DOWNWARD.

3. ESTIMATED PRISON POPULATION:

[redacted] B1
EMBASSY CALCULATES THAT CURRENT TOTAL PEN PRISONER POPULATION IS 3,455. GOA ANNOUNCED THAT IT HELD 3,607 PEN PRISONERS IN [redacted]

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DECEMBER 1977. SINCE THAT TIME, 446 PERSONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM PEN STATUS, 347 ADDED, 21 HAVE BEEN EXPELLED, AND 54 AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

F. MAGNITUDE OF ELIMINATION TERRORISTS; AND NUMBER OF UNRECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS
INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISAPPEARED--THOSE HELD IN CLANDESTINE DETENTION AND THOSE ELIMINATED BY SECURITY FORCES--IS VERY LIMITED. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS AND SUB-VERSIVES IS UNDERSTANDABLY AN AREA OF GREAT SENSITIVITY WITHIN THE GOA AND IS VERY CLOSELY

HELD. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY HAS NO CURRENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE MAGNITUDE OF ELIMINATIONS OF TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES AS REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH B.
HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SOME LIMITED INFORMATION REGARDING NON RECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS WHICH DEDUCTIVELY PROVIDES SOME INDICATORS REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES. INFORMATION REGARDING DAM PRISONERS ALTHOUGH CLASSIFIED AS SECRET IS NOT AS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED WITHIN THE GOA.
IN CHOOSING BETWEEN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CLAIM THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 8,000 UNACCOUNTED FOR PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA AND THE RECENT SECURITY FORCE SOURCE STATEMENT THAT THE TOTAL DAM PRISONERS TOTAL DOES NO EXCEED 500, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LOWER FIGURE IS PROBABLY MUCH CLOSER TO ACTUAL FACTS FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIST, WE SEE NO OPERATIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE GOA HOLD A LARGE NUMBER OF CLANDESTINE PRISONERS AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED AND ADJUDICATED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO SERVE AS TRUSTEES DOING MENIAL WORK IN INTERROGATION CENTERS OR WHO ARE UTILIZED AS

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INFORMANTS AND SPOTTERS FOR THE SECURITY FORCES, WE BELIEVE PRISONERS DEEMED TO BE RECUPERABLE WILL EITHER BE RELEASED OR PLACED AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER. SECONDLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UNCOMMISSIONED ARMY PRISON IN JUNIN, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, THE EMBASSY HAS NO HARD INFORMATION OF ANY DETENTION FACILITY WHICH COULD HOLD A LARGE NUMBER OF UNRECOGNIZED DAM PRISONERS. IT IS OUR CURRENT JUDGEMENT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE REPORTED "CONCENTRATION CAMPS" OFTEN ARE IN FACT INTERROGATION CENTERS. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6772

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THESE REPORTED CENTERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN AS THE ARGENTINE SECURIT FORCES HAVE REDUCED THE SCALE OF THEIR ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS.
IT IS THE EMBASSY'S CONTINUING JUDGMENT THAT INDIVIDUALS DEEMED TO BE TERRORISTS OR SUBVERSIVES LINKED WITH TERRORISM ARE ROUTINELY ELIMINATED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES AFTER A SUMMARY ADJUDICATION. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED MORE REAPPEARANCE REPORTS IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS THAN PREVIOUSLY. MOST NOTABLE WAS THE REAPPEARANCE OF ALL BUT FOUR OF THE 30 PLUS PERONISTS AND PARTIDO COMUNISTA REVOLUCIONARIO MEMBERS ABDUCTED AS PART OF THE FIRST ARMY CORPS' SAN JUSTO HOUSING PROJECT SECURITY OPERATION. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF THE RELEASE OF MATERIAL WITNESSES WHO WERE ABDUCTED AND FORCIBLY QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF PREVIOUSLY DISAPPEARED PERSONS AND PRESENT PEN PRISONERS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE INCREASE IN REAPPEARANCES MAY BE DUE TO TARGETING OF
SOFTER NON-TERRORIST LINKED SUBVERSIVES AND MATERIAL WITNESSES BY THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE FORCES
AS HARDER TARGETS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE.

G. ACCESS TO TIMERMAN:
TIMERMAN'S LAAWYER IN HIS PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
[redacted]

[redacted]

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THE COUNCIL OF PATRIMONIAL RESPONSIBILITY, IGNACIO OAKLANDER, RECEIVED ONE TIME PERMISSION TO VISIT TIMERMAN ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27. ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY, TIMERMAN'S OTHER REQUESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL VISITS FROM HIS DOCTOR AND DENTIST HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED. TIMERMAN'S REPORTED PRESENT MAJOR MEDICAL PROBLEM IS AN ALLERGIC REACTION AFFECTING VISION IN HIS ONE FUNCTIONING EYE.

CASTRO

[redacted]

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